his course. A few weeks later, when France and Russia opposed the allocation of Egyptian money for the advance to Dpngola, Germany supported the British request, and con-.tinued to flout French sentiment by encouraging the reconquest of the Sudan.

Though Germany took the British side in the Egyptian quarrel, attempts were made at intervals by the Wilhelmstrasse to draw closer to France. In June, 1898, the French Ambassa-dor called Biilow*s attention to *pourparlers* between 'England and Portugal concerning a lease of Delagoa Bay in return for financial aid, and to the'danger of leaving London and Lisbon to settle their business without regard to the interests of France and Germany. On the following day the German Ambassador brought a remarkable Memorandum to the Quai d'Orsay suggesting not only economic reprisals against Portugal, but "practical co-operation between Germany and France in current questions of every kind." The Meline Government had just resigned, and Hanotaux explained that he could merely hand it to his successor. " I gathered from a long talk/' reported Miinster, " that personally he would be much inclined to co-operate with us in matters of common interest like this." To the Ambassador's surprise, the new Foreign Minister Delcass6 made no reference to the subject. To ignore such a direct approach was an astonishing *debut.,* and his excuse that "no proposals were made to me" was unconvincing. " I greatly regret the departure of Hanotaux," wrote Miinster. " My relations with him were of the best. Though he was bound to follow the course of Russian policy, he desired to entertain good relations with us and to improve them. The suspicion of this Minister that I noted in Berlin I find on closer acquaintance to be unfounded. On the other

hand I fear that Delcasse will deserve our mistrust. I knew him as Colonial Minister and did not like him." The forecast was correct. Delcasse was the greatest of France's Foreign Ministers between 1871 and 1914, and, with the possible exception of Poincare, the most inveterate foe of Germany. For a brief moment, enraged by the Fashoda surrender, his thoughts turned to Berlin. A rapprochement with Germany, lie remarked to a German journalist, was extremely desirable : the *revanche* had lost ground in recent years, for the younger generation was not interested. " II faut refake la politique suivie depuis seize ans." It was only a passing mood and it did not recur. Delcass6 never loved England, but he